

Wilson Asks Right to Shift War Officials

Bill Sent to Senate Would Give President "Blanket Powers"

Plan Is Said To Be Doomed to Failure

One Member of Upper House Says Measure Will Not Get Five Votes

[Staff Correspondence]
WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—A bill granting the President blanket powers to make any changes he may desire in the executive departments has been sent up to the Senate by the White House, as the administration's idea as to the proper legal reorganization of the war-making branches of the government. The bill does not specify any changes, but merely authorizes the President to change offices and confer authority as he may deem it necessary to change present processes, with a view to coordinating the war activities, and reduce working at cross purposes.

The bill was sent to a strong Administration Senator, who at once announced, however, that he would neither introduce the bill nor vote that it should be brought up.

It is regarded as certain, from comments made by Senators on the Military Affairs Committee to-day, that the bill could not possibly obtain a favorable report from that committee. One Senator went so far as to say that it could not obtain five votes on the floor of the Senate.

The existence of this bill sent up to the Capitol created some surprise in certain downtown quarters, where it had been confidently expected that a bill of an entirely different sort would shortly be presented to Congress by Secretary of War Baker. As stated in The Tribune this morning, it is known that Mr. Baker has expressed himself as favoring a measure which would legally concentrate the war buying of the government under one strong head.

Senators to Recall Baker; Pressure for War Cabinet Grows

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—While Senators prepared speeches for delivery next week in support of measures to establish a war cabinet and create a munitions director, the Senate Military Committee to-day arranged to recall Secretary Baker next Tuesday for cross-examination regarding his statement before the committee last Monday on achievements of the War Department.

Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, Democratic member of the Military Committee, plans to address the Senate Monday in support of the bills, and is expected to reply to Mr. Baker. He and other Senators supporting the legislation which President Wilson is actively opposing are mustering for sharp cross-examination of the Secretary Tuesday.

Another speech in support of the war legislation is planned by Mr. Adamsworth, of New York, a Republican member of the Military Committee. Administration spokesmen in the Senate are expected to reply both to Senators Hitchcock and Adamsworth, and also are confident of preventing consideration of the measures in the Senate by holding them in the committee. With a vacancy in the committee, due to the death of Senator Brady, of Idaho, the members now are said to be evenly divided on the bills.

With the dispute over the war bills reaching the Senate floor, the Military Committee plans to close its inquiry as quickly as possible. After Secretary Baker is examined Tuesday, it will have to consider only contentions and a few minor details of the work of the War Department.

Howard Coffin, chairman of the Aircraft Board, testifying before the committee to-day in executive session, urged a centralized war control.

Mr. Coffin told the committee that the productive capacity of the country could not be developed fully unless government purchases were put into the hands of a central agency with full powers. A definite programme of placing war orders, he said, has not been formed, and industry consequently is suffering.

A national policy respecting purchasing, Mr. Coffin said, must be instituted immediately or else general confusion will result by reason of the fact that the various government departments are proceeding in cooperation with each other.

An agency built along the lines of a ministry of munitions, could convert existing plants into war manufacturing plants without upsetting industry, Mr. Coffin said, while continued placing of independent orders by the various departments threatened to bring a state of chaos.

Russians Reinforce Finnish "Red" Rebels

Petrograd Bolsheviks Will Fight White Guard, Which Now Dominates North

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 2.—According to the latest advices from Finland, the White Guard is now master of the country north of the line running through Kystad, on the west coast, and quantities of military, machine gun and rifle ammunition have been seized by the White Guard forces.

The Red Guard is holding out in the south. Fighting is continuing near Kerava. Bolshevik reinforcements have arrived at Viborg from Petrograd.

Ground Hog in Cold Storage—So Watch Out!

According to late returns from the rural districts, the ground hog, for the first time in many years, left a shivering and coales world to its own fate yesterday and refused absolutely to issue from its burrow so that humans might know how soon this winter was to end.

Yesterday was Candlemas Day, and it was the duty of the groundhog to come forth. If he saw his shadow he was expected, according to precedent, to retire again and let the wintry blast continue for forty days more. If he did not see his shadow and stayed out then the world could rest content with the thought that the worst of winter was past. This year of all years, witnesses assert, the groundhog preserved an attitude of strict neutrality and never left his hole at all.

Uncle Hiram Minton, of Second Mountain, N. J., and a group of neighboring agriculturists dared chilblains and frost bites for several hours yesterday, hanging around the hole of what they have always claimed was the only original groundhog.

They spread lettuce leaves and turnips about the animal's doorstep, in the hope of enticing him forth. One of the watchers, after an hour's waiting, went home, and returned with a gun.

"When the darned cuss comes out," he asserted, "he's going to stay out this time."

But the groundhog never came. By dusk the watch party broke up and departed, their faith in the "only original" entirely gone.

From Winsted, Conn., the report comes that the furry arbiter of winter did not appear, for the good reason that he was frozen stiff, down at the bottom of his burrow. The frost has penetrated five feet, and no one ever heard of a woodchuck going down that far. Wiscacres predicted that the groundhog was in cold storage and that therefore winter would remain for goodness knows how long.

Britain Calls Envoy Home For Talk Here

Speeches of Sir F. E. Smith Indiscreet, Is Charge

Sir Frederick Smith, Attorney General of England, who came to the United States early in January, has been hastily recalled to London. While no official explanation of the British government's summary orders for his return has been made, it became known yesterday that speeches made by Sir Frederick and interviews given by him to newspapermen here not only caused surprise in Administrative circles in Washington, but so angered his own government that, despite the fact that the Attorney General's lecture tour was not completed and that negotiations with the State Department which he had begun remained unfinished, it was decided that he had remained in America long enough.

An attack on President Wilson's proposal for a league of nations to maintain peace after the conclusion of the war featured Sir Frederick's speech in this city, which he delivered before the annual convention of the State Bar Association on January 11. After enumerating the difficulties which he said would attend the formation of such a league he warned against the "danger of trusting rhetoric alone."

"I am not here to disparage noble ideals which, with restraint, but penetrating rhetoric, your President has distributed to the encouragement of his allies," he said. "I am here as a lawyer, addressing lawyers, and we are cautious and careful men, and if we do not keep our heads—well, God help the rest of the population!"

Compelled to Explain
So much resentment arose as a result of this criticism that Sir Frederick was compelled to explain his speech. Speaking before the Lawyers' Club on January 12, he said that the newspaper men who reported his address, "being laymen, had slightly misunderstood" his attitude. No criticism of the President had been intended, he maintained. Two days afterward, however, Sir Frederick again caused adverse criticism by an interview given to Robert L. Norton, political writer of "The Boston Post," which appeared in that paper under the heading: "Machine Guns Rule Ireland! Says Sir Frederick Smith."

"According to the Right Honorable Sir Frederick Edwin Smith," the article stated, "it would take something over four repatriated divisions, or about 90,000 men, to preserve order in Ireland if the government attempted to put conscription into effect. At the present time, on his authority, there is something like two and a half army divisions, or about 30,000 men, plentifully supplied with machine guns, keeping the peace in Ireland. The Sinn Feiners have no machine guns and could be mowed down like wheat, he says."

Speaking of Sir Roger Casement, Sir

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TO THE NEWSDEALERS AND THE PUBLIC:

TO CORRECT any misunderstanding which may exist in the minds of the newsdealers who have suspended their business, to the great inconvenience of the public, throwing out of employment more than 5,000 newspaper carriers, the newspaper publishers wish to restate their position plainly:

The price asked of the newsdealer is \$1.40 a hundred copies for the week-day editions, and all unsold papers will be redeemed by the publishers until such time as the public demand has been accurately measured and fully supplied. Dealers are reminded that under an order of the United States government relative to saving white paper it is necessary to be very careful to avoid the waste arising from the distribution of papers in excess of the public demand.

The profit to the newsdealer has been increased from 40 to 60 cents a hundred copies (fifty per cent). No recent wage increase in New York City or elsewhere is comparable to this.

It is also the privilege of the newsdealers to arrange with the customer to add a service charge for home delivery. The country dealers have already adjusted their routes on a fair basis of additional charge for service, with little or no complaint from their customers.

THE PUBLISHERS.

February 2, 1918.

Propaganda Most Deadly Gas Spread By the Boche

German Crusade to Defame and Belittle America's Effort Among the French Should Be Met

Counter Publicity Organization Needed There, for, Un- checked, Enemy's Scheme Promises to Weaken Morale, as It Did in Italy

[NOTE—Caspar Whitney, traveler, writer, explorer and one of the best known war correspondents in the world, was a member of the Hoover Commission for Relief in Belgium until the United States went to war with Germany. In December last he joined the staff of The Tribune and went to France as general correspondent. He was so affected by conditions there that on his own initiative he returned to bring the American people an uncensored message that would not wait. This is the fifth of several articles. The purpose of printing them is threefold. Light is curative. Truth is compelling. The mind of a great democracy requires to be moved.—The Tribune.]

By Caspar Whitney

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THERE are four kinds of gas which the Boche use (have introduced) in their hellish warfare to repel and to kill, in an agony of suffocation, troops they have been unable to overcome in fair fighting.

The gas that makes the eyes smart and weep so copiously as to temporarily impair their use.

The gas that especially attacks and burns the tender parts of the body—under the arms and in the crotch.

The gas that shrivels mucous membranes and wholly blinds the victim for ninety hours.

The gas that is projected in a ball envelope, which drops without noise and opens without explosion to release its odorless but fatal fumes.

And there is a fifth—wily, deadly and equally difficult to escape—the gas of German propaganda.

The first four are employed in front of the lines, the fifth in and behind the lines. And the toll of the fifth exceeds, I venture to say, that of the other four combined.

With the German propaganda in America—pacifistic, and absolving from evil thought or deed Germans from German atrocities in Belgium, France, Poland, Serbia—we are familiar.

Of the German propaganda in Germany—with its bitter slander of England, its affected contempt of America, its glorification of Hun soldiers and their favor in the eyes of God—the Kaiser keeps us informed.

A German propaganda in France, however, against America in France, among the country folk and even among United States soldiers will be news I fancy to the average of us in America.

Lying Crusade Extends
To the Little Towns

Yet in the course of my truth seeking in France I constantly ran into such a one, and perhaps one illustration, the experience of a resident friend, will be helpful in understanding something of its character and of its effect.

His housemaid had been for a little holiday at her Brittany home and had returned but a few days previous to our meeting, tingling with a vivid tale of the rapacious designs of the English never to leave Calais, of a conspiracy between the Germans and the Americans to divide the trade of France, handing over to Japan the lion's share of certain novelty manufactures in order that, for Germany's benefit, there might be a beginning of an alienation of Japan from England, and, for America's peace of mind, a soothing of Japan's ruffled feelings apropos of the irritating "gentlemen's agreement" practically forced upon her reluctant officials, and the restrictions upon her free entrance into general American life.

Such in substance is the free translation of the long and agitating story this simple woman brought back from a village so small one would expect it beyond even the thought of a foreign propaganda of any description.

But for ways that are dark and channels that are devious and countless, German propaganda is in a class by itself.

A review of one incident of German propaganda in Italy and the results will be informing and serve, I hope, also as warning to us. Among the Italian troops holding a certain position a

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German Strike Leaders Seized; Iron Rule Is Crushing Disorder

LET'S NOT BE DIVERTED FROM THE MAIN ISSUE!



March Expected To Reorganize General Staff

Baker Awaits Word From Pershing Before Naming Him Its Chief

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Speeding up of General Staff activities is expected to follow the appointment of Major General Peyton C. March as acting Chief of Staff of the army, announcement of which depends only on a flicker from General Pershing that the officer can be spared from his duties as chief of artillery of the expeditionary forces.

Secretary Baker would not discuss his plans to-day, but it is known that he has determined upon General March as the most suitable officer to take over the work of this important post. General Bliss, the staff chief, will remain in France as the permanent representative of the United States on the Supreme War Council, which determines policies to be carried out on the various fronts.

Both officers and civilians who have returned from France recently have brought back word of the impression General March had created by the energy and skill displayed in organization of his own branch of the service under General Pershing. Private messages from France have indicated that the American commander approved the selection and would not block General March's appointment, but so far as is known no official reply has come from General Pershing.

Coming from many months of close contact with the fighting front chief in France, General March will be able to put into his task as head of the army all the knowledge he has acquired as to modern warfare. He is reputed by his fellow officers to be a man of quick decisions, a quality regarded as vital in a successful Chief of Staff. Upon that official rests the burden of seeing to it that the various bureaus of the department, as well as the line of the army, work out their problems in harmony.

During the time General Bliss and his predecessor, Major General Hugh L. Scott, were absent from foreign missions there was a tendency for important papers to become clogged in the General Staff Office. It has been difficult to get final decision on even urgent selections, as the officers acting were said to be hesitant about going outside any policy laid down by the actual chief.

General March will not be so hampered. His appointment as acting chief carries with it as much weight as though he were to be made Chief of Staff, and his policies will be his own. Officers who know him say he will not hesitate to assert himself and take control of the situation.

Major General John Hiddle, Assistant Chief of Staff, and now acting chief, in the absence of General Bliss, will continue as assistant so far as is known.

Pershing Reports Officers Sent Him 'Ignorant' of War

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Insistent recommendations that general officers, colonels and other line officers of high rank be held directly responsible for the training of the officers under them are contained in extracts of reports from General Pershing published here to-day.

There is unflinching criticism of the lack of military knowledge on several vital points displayed by such officers, presumably of the regular army, on their arrival in France.

General Pershing notes an "almost total failure to give instructions in principles of minor tactics and their practical application to war conditions. Officers from colonels down, and including some general officers, are found ignorant of the handling of units in open warfare, including principles of reconnaissance, outpost, advance guard, solution of practical problems and formation of attack. No training whatever has been given in musketry efficiency, as distinguished from individual target practice on the range."

British Have New Airships, Better Than Zeppelins

LONDON, Jan. 31.—A new British airship, of the Zeppelin type, but said to be a distinct improvement on the German Zeppelin, was shown on the film for the first time this week in a private view at the American Embassy here.

The new airship, in the belief of the British naval men, is destined to play an important part in naval warfare. The pictures were viewed by an invited audience of American naval and military men.

Cabinet Member Going to France to Join in Conference

Washington, Feb. 2.—One of President Wilson's official family is going to France.

The emissary, an integral part of the United States government, is to be sent in order that the connection between this government and those of our allies may be closer. When decisions of the war council are to be submitted to the various governments that of the United States will have its representative on the ground with plenary powers, and no time will be wasted by reason of the 3,000 miles of water separating the war council from this country.

Whatever Cabinet member goes will take with him a complete staff of assistants, so that he can deal personally with the problems of his department as they are affected by the war.

It is said that the man most familiar with the battle situation probably will be sent, as the questions to be decided will be almost exclusively military in character in all probability.

U. S. Is Plotting Teuton Revolts, Berlin Charges

Fund of \$60,000,000 Is Pledged for Propaganda, It Asserts

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Berlin dispatches telling of an alleged Anglo-American plot to foment revolutions in the Central Powers are published by Cologne newspapers, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam.

In Washington on New Year's Day it is said that \$60,000,000 was subscribed for this purpose. The revolutions were to be organized in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria.

The organization was to be under the leadership of Senator Stone and Earl Reading and Viscount Northcliffe. It was to have branches in neutral capitals surrounding Germany, and German-speaking neutrals were to be sent into Germany in an effort to incite the workers in munition factories to strike. The dispatches declare that there was also to be sabotage in the German munition-making industry.

Supreme War Council Ends General Meetings

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Socialists Stirring Up National Movement to Demand Release of Comrades

"End the War," Is Their Demand

Martial Law Declared in Seven War Facto- ries; Troops Massed Near Berlin

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Wilhelm Dittmann, one of the Socialist minority leaders of the Reichstag, was arrested when he attempted to address a crowd in a suburb of Berlin during the strike disorders, according to Berlin evening newspapers received in Amsterdam.

Dittmann is one of the signers of a pamphlet issued by the independent Socialists in preparation for the strike. This pamphlet calls on the people to show "its will to finish the war."

A Munich dispatch to the "Frankfurter Zeitung" says that several strike leaders have been arrested there, including the writer Kurt Eisner and Frau Sarah Lerch. The troops prevented a demonstration which was attempted before Wittelsbach Palace, where the King resides.

Tumultuous scenes occurred at Socialist meetings. The general situation is little changed.

A national demonstration is being organized in Germany as a protest against the arrest of Herr Dittmann, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch reports. Hugo Haase, leader of the Minority Socialists, appealed to Chancellor von Hertling to obtain the release of Herr Dittmann. The Chancellor said he was powerless, as Berlin was entirely in the hands of the military.

Seven Berlin factories have been placed under martial law and the strikers ordered to resume their work by 7 o'clock Monday morning at the latest, according to a Central News dispatch from Amsterdam. Their failure to return, it is announced, will be punished according to military discipline.

Mob Attacks Soldiers
Serious rioting on Thursday in Spandau, where important German war industries are located, is reported in German newspapers. Soldiers were attacked by a mob. A policeman was dragged from his horse and beaten.

Four thousand men who have been employed at the harbor works are on strike, these reports say. Strikers cut the railway leading to one of the factories.

At Siemensstadt, a suburb of Spandau, tramcars were overturned.

A mob stormed a bakery and compelled the proprietor to distribute bread without bread crums.

Telegrams from Berlin reaching the Dutch press say that the discussions between the government and the Socialist Deputies who are members of the strike committee were resumed to-day. It is expected that the conference, in which Friedrich von Payer, the imperial Vice-Chancellor, is participating, will attain good results. The independent Socialists are not taking part, having demanded that direct representatives of the strikers also shall be heard.

Coal Miners Resuming Work

According to a dispatch from Essen, 12 per cent of the workers are on strike to-day. In Rheinisch Westphalia the number of strikers in the coal district is constantly decreasing. A telegram from Breslau says that a meeting attended by 4,000 workmen unanimously resolved to resume work after a strike that lasted one day.

"Perfectly Absurd!" Says Senator Stone, In Emphatic Denial

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—"Perfectly absurd!" was how Senator Stone, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to-day characterized the report that he was concerned in an organization to foment strikes in Germany.

It is absolutely without foundation," he said. "The reports might have been circulated in Germany to head off the unrest and strikes now going on. Over there the United States is supposed to have money to burn, and it might be that the government would circulate such reports."

That circulation in the enemy countries of President Wilson's address also may have contributed to the rumors was suggested by Senator Stone.

"I learned only last night," he said, "that the Russian Bolsheviks are themselves circulating the President's address, not only in Russia, but in Poland, Germany and Austria. The Bolshevik leaders have had the President's address translated into German, Polish, Czech and Slavonic and circulated them among the peoples whom Germany dominates. Their purpose, I understand, is to stir up sentiment so as to force Germany at Breslau-Litovsk to enter into the peace the Bolsheviks desire."

"But as for any strike propaganda, as far as I am personally concerned and from all I know, the reports are ridiculous."

Cuts Off 3 Fingers to Evade Service, but Goes to Jail

GREENVILLE, S. C., Feb. 2.—Seven years' sentence for cutting off three fingers of his right hand to evade military service has been imposed by a court martial here on Private Edward J. Causey, of Dover, Tenn. Private Lark L. Triplett, of Granite Falls, N. C., for similarly mutilating his left hand was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

The "Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung" published a Munster dispatch